Private sector participation in coal sector

1031. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the total energy requirement of the country is met with coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for which development of new mines has not been taken up;

(c) whether it is also a fact thai the increasing demand of coal cannot be met through the public sector alone; and

(d) if so, the steps that have been taken to encourage private sector in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANARAO): (a) and (b) About 55% of the primary commercial energy supply and 70% of power generation is coal based. Development of new mines is a continuous process to augment domestic coal production to meet the growing energy requirements of the country. In this regard Coal India Limited (CIL) has identified a total of 97 projects with aggregate capacity of 231.90 million tonnes to be taken up during the Tenth Plan period. Out of these, 73 projects with aggregate ultimate capacity of 149.19 million tonnes have so far been sanctioned.

(c) Yes. Efforts of public sector would need to be supplemented with contribution from private sector as well in meeting the increasing demand for coal.

(d) Private sector participation in coal mining has been facilitated by making amendments to the provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 from time to time. However, private participation in coal mining is presently limited to captive consumption for production of iron and steel, cement and power. Further Coal Mines (Nationalization) Amendment Bill 2000 has also been introduced in Rajya Sabha in April 2000 which seeks to permit private participation in coal mining without the present restriction of captive use.

MoU with NTPC for power project in Gujarat

1032. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat and NTPC have signed an MoU for setting up of 1000 MW Power Project at Pipavav in joint venture;